

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 879

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Lois Elizabeth Kilgore Kelly on the celebration of her 100th birthday

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Lois Elizabeth Kilgore Kelly will celebrate her 100th birthday on February 23, 2008, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of David and Percie Kilgore Lee, Lois Kelly was born in Kingsport, and raised in Knoxville with her two siblings, Glenda Kilgore King and David Paul Kilgore; and

WHEREAS, she attended Knoxville College Normal School and then Knoxville Colored High School, which she graduated from in 1927; and

WHEREAS, in 1931, Mrs. Kelly received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Tennessee State University, and immediately started teaching in Covington; and

WHEREAS, she moved back to Knoxville in 1934, and began her illustrious teaching career with the Knoxville City School; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Kelly's first teaching assignment was at Greene Elementary School, under the tutelage of Principal C. W. Cansler; he had been her principal at Knoxville Colored High School, and she felt honored that he selected her to teach at Greene Elementary; and

WHEREAS, an extremely talented and compassionate educator, Mrs. Kelly served with acumen and alacrity at Greene Elementary School for twenty-two exemplary years; she also taught at Maynard Elementary School and Lonsdale Elementary School, until her retirement from Knoxville City School in 1971; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Knoxville community, Mrs. Kelly was very active in the political arena, registering citizens to vote, working at the voting polls, attending Democratic Party rallies and meetings, and providing Knoxville College students rides to and from the sit-ins of the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, Lois Kelly is an active and devout member of Shiloh United Presbyterian Church, which she has faithfully served for seventy-four years in numerous capacities, including as Sunday school teacher, choir member, deacon, and elder; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished member of the NAACP, Mrs. Kelly has also rendered sterling service to Zeta Phi Beta Sorority for seventy-four remarkable years; as a member of the sorority, she has served the local Nu Zeta chapter and the South Central region in various positions, such as financial secretary, treasurer, committee chair, and undergraduate advisor; and

WHEREAS, Lois Kelly is also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, in 1940, she wed Dr. Curtis Kelly, who later became a well-respected dentist in Knoxville; after Mrs. Kelly's retirement from teaching, she worked in her husband's dental office until his retirement in 1994; and

WHEREAS, as Lois Kelly approaches her eleventh decade, she is still an active and productive member of society; she continues to drive her car, shop for groceries and clothing, visit the mall, attend aerobics at the O'Connor Senior Center, play bridge, and watch her favorite soap operas daily, as well as her favorite athletes, Tiger Woods, Serena and Venus Williams, and the Lady Vols; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Lois Elizabeth Kilgore Kelly on the celebration of her 100th birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.